

HAYNES et al Appl. No. 09/960,717 August 21, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

Claim 16 has been amended to additionally define the invention (attention is directed to the fact that claims 15 and 17, which depend from claim 16, make reference to crosslinking). New claim 28, which also depends from claim 16, specifies that gp120 is noncovalently bound to gp41, as specified in claim 16 prior to amendment.

An early and favorable Action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

Reg. No. 32,955

MJW:tat

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor

Arlington, VA 22201-4714

Telephone: (703) 816-4000 Facsimile: (703) 816-4100